

Heidi Kruizenga Testimony

Hello honorable Oversight Committee members. Thank you Representatives Johnson and Reilly for hearing the voice of Michigan's people and writing these bills. We are fortunate to live in a country where there was an intentional system of checks and balances put in to place when the government formed to assure that power is not abused and the rights of the citizens are protected.

In the case of what has happened with the health department, power is being misused, and it is not in the best interest of the people of Michigan. MDHHS has mishandled vaccine related responsibilities in the past several years, most notably the waiver process. The department is not providing a quality education to parents regarding vaccines at these sessions and in some cases is offering no education. When information is shared, it is biased, one-sided information to strictly promote vaccines in a positive light- which violates the essential principles of informed consent. To allow MDHHS to mandate vaccines when they do not acknowledge the risks associated is a huge conflict of interest.

The department is also telling schools to violate FERPA and tracking Michigan residents' private medical information and other personal data by withholding waivers and an education for students' parents who do not reluctantly follow their rules. This makes me feel uncomfortable and that my families' rights are being violated.

This mistrust and disapproval has impacted my family so much that we are entertaining the prospect of homeschooling- largely in part to avoid dealing with the health department.

I meet monthly with my elected representatives and discuss my concerns regarding vaccines, the waiver process, and a variety of other matters of importance to my family. Through these face to face meetings I am able to have my voice heard and hold them accountable for the decisions they are making in the House or Senate. The health department, on the other hand, is NOT accountable. Please vote YES on bills 5162 and 5163 to maintain accountability on the utmost important issue of vaccine mandates. Thank you.

Mitch Kruizenga Testimony

Good morning respected Representatives. I urge you to vote YES on bills 5162 and 5163. The sensitive issue of vaccine mandates is personal to every individual in Michigan. Vaccines are known to carry risk of serious injury and even death. These mandates should not be approached casually or be forced on Michigan residents by the health department. There especially should be extreme caution and accountability when talking about mandating more vaccines to infants and children. There is an every increasing amount of vaccines being encouraged to this age group, and they are the most vulnerable to injury, as their neurological, immune, and other systems are still developing.

MDHHS has been pushing a one size fits all approach to the current vaccination schedule that is required for children to enter school and making every effort to reduce exemptions by means of inconveniencing parents, challenging their religious beliefs, not accepting medical exemptions, and refusing to give the waivers when parents attempt to protect student privacy. This is unsafe, inappropriate, and insulting to the parents of Michigan who have every right to make medical decisions for themselves and families.

Our family has a medical history of child-onset autoimmune and neurological disorders. It has been well documented that those individuals more susceptible to autoimmune disease are at an exceptionally elevated risk for vaccine injury. Even so, we have not been able to obtain a medical exemption from our doctor because all exemptions must go through the health department, and they approve very few medical exemptions. Medical decisions are of a most personal nature and specific to individuals and families. They should be made by individuals with informed consent in conjunction with medical professionals of their choosing- NOT made by the health department in trying to follow some one size fits all rules.

MDHHS is out of touch with the needs of Michigan's citizens and they are not accountable to us for the rules they have been unjustly instituting. I am hopeful that Johnson and Reilly's bills receive your YES vote and that our state can take the health department out of vaccine mandate decision-making.